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SHALL DEMING HAVE COMMISSION GOV'T?

That is Question Local Voters Will Be Called Upon to Decide at Within Two Months.

MASS MEETING CALLED MONDAY

Petitions Being Circulated Already Have Enough Signatures to Assure Calling of Election.

With the approach of the city election local sentiment for the commission form of government crystallized early this week into the formation of a committee of citizens who are circulating petitions asking the mayor to call an election to submit such a proposition to the people. A mass meeting has been called at the Cody theatre on Monday next, March 4, at 8:30 p. m., for the discussion of the matter and the petitions will receive their final circulation at this meeting before presentation to Mayor Nordhaus, providing the necessary percentage of voters' names are appended to them by that time. The law requires that not less than 25 per cent of the number of voters at the last city election sign the petitions to make them binding on the mayor.

In the case of Deming this was 366. As 480 had signed the petitions up to Thursday noon, with many more promised, it may be stated that the calling of the election asked for is assured, unless some question arises as to the legality of the signatures, all that remains being the actual setting of the date. The date of the city election is Tuesday, April 2nd. The calling of the petitioned election before that date would naturally eliminate that election entirely.

However, Mayor Nordhaus has indicated that no election will be called before the regular scheduled election, though it may be called the same day. If carried it would then be necessary to call another election to elect the commissioners.

The regular meeting of the council falls on the same night set for the mass meeting, but the circulators of the petition are asking that this session be postponed to the following night so that the matter may be taken up as soon as possible.

The call for the meeting, which appears on the last page of today's Graphic, cites as a reason for abandoning the present form of civic government that "Deming is no longer a village, but a city," and asks for the adoption of a government "commensurate with our development and growth."

Commission government has been very popular in the Mississippi valley for more than a decade past, but so far as we know Albuquerque is the only city in this part of New Mexico that has it. There it has seemed to work out very satisfactorily. Under the state law, such a government consists of a mayor and two other commissioners, each on salary, the amount of which is determined by the population. The figures on the population are determined from the last city election, six people being counted for each voter. Under this plan, Deming's mayor would receive only \$750 annually and each of the two other commissioners, \$125. As the salary increases to \$1,500 and \$300 for cities over 6,000 people, and it is a certainty that there are more people here than that, the pay would of course rise to those figures as soon as the figures of the coming city election are accepted as official.

The reason for the small pay at first is that at the last city election only a small number of voters turned out—366, to be exact, which would give us a population only a little over two thousand. At the last primary over 900 votes were cast, but the primary has nothing to do with it, unfortunately.

The law makes it mandatory for the mayor to call the election within two months after the presentation of petitions bearing the specified 25 percent of the voters' signatures.

If the proposition fails to carry at the election it is automatically a dead issue for two years, when it may be brought up again in the same manner as before. If the people decide, after its adoption, that it is unsatisfactory it can be abandoned by exactly the same process—a petition of 25 per cent of the voters being mandatory upon the commission to call an election to decide the matter. Few cities, however, have ever dis-

The Tabernacle

More and more the tabernacle is serving an increasing number of people both in town and camp. The entertainment by the school children last Friday evening gave great pleasure to a crowded house. Miss MacBeth of the state normal at Silver City, a lady of marked ability and experience as a reader and entertainer, will give one of her programs Friday evening, March 1st, and it is hoped that an equally large number of soldiers and civilians will be present. No admission charged, no collection taken.

The social night on Wednesday of each week has become quite a feature, when a large number of people gather for an evening of fellowship and fun. This is open to all and offers an opportunity for acquaintance and intercourse quite out of the ordinary.

Residents and transient people in Deming, with men from the camp, are thronging to the tabernacle for services on Sunday, both morning and evening. A cordial welcome awaits everyone not affiliated elsewhere. Visit the tabernacle, get acquainted with its workers, and share in its good things.

R. H. Flahive for Assessor.

Three Democrats are already in the race for assessor, the latest to announce for that office being R. H. Flahive, whose announcement will be found in its proper place in this paper. Mr. Flahive is an old timer in these parts, having lived in the state 38 of his 41 years, and has been a resident of Luna county for 17 years. He followed farming near Deming for a number of years, but later moved his family to town and for nearly a year past has been with the Cox grocery. He has never held office, but can claim to have been of much service to his party. He has a wide acquaintance in the city and over the county, and if nominated would undoubtedly make a strong race. His claims are entitled to serious consideration by his party.

Back From Month's Trip

W. A. Page returned Monday from Ajo, Arizona, where he has been visiting his son, Tom, who has a barber concession there from the Cornelia Copper Company. The Cornelia mine at Ajo is one of the largest in the United States, if not the very largest, and Mr. Page enjoyed a number of trips through the plant and down into the ground watching the various operations of the great concern. His vacation was partly for the benefit of his health, and the fact that he gained 20 pounds during the thirty days of his absence is proof that he got what he was looking for in that respect.

"The Slacker" at Isis.

"The Slacker," a thrilling story of the draft, which upset every preconceived notion of the American's duties to his country, is billed at Hawkins' Isis theatre today and tomorrow, March 1 and 2. "Draft 258" made an almost unparalleled hit with the boys at Camp Cody, and "The Slacker" promises to draw almost as heavily with the men in uniform. But "The Slacker" is not just a story for soldiers. It is a gripping drama of the great war that will hold civilian and soldier alike with absorbing interest. It would spoil the effect to outline the story here. Go and see it.

See the greatest device ever invented for cooking and heating. Agents wanted for surrounding towns. Demonstration at Cody theatre building on Pine street. F. R. MORNEAULT.

carded the commission form of government, which in the abstract is unquestionably a good thing and has in some cases worked wonders in civic development, the case of Galveston, Texas, where the idea originated, being a notable example. Like every other form of government it can be abused and is in itself no guarantee against bad city government. It has generally been found a less unwieldy system than the council plan, however, and has the further advantage that the commissioners are more directly responsible to the people for their acts. Whether it is the thing that Deming needs is a question that will be threshed out by the voters between now and the election. Jas. Carragien, who is in charge of the circulation of the petitions, declares that sentiment for the commission government is far more general than he had hoped and believes the question is as good as settled already. Only a small percentage of those approached refused to sign.

MRS. CASE OUT ON BOND—NOW UP TO GRAND JURY.

Case Against Former Deming Woman Considered Serious—El Pasoan to Conduct Defense.

Santa Fe, Feb. 27.—Mrs. R. H. Case, who killed her husband with a shot-gun on February 21st, at their home on Manhattan avenue, has given bond to appear before the grand jury, which meets March 8. It was announced that she would appear before District Judge Holloman today on a charge of murder, but late on Saturday afternoon a preliminary complaint was sworn out by District Attorney J. H. Crist before Judge Reed Holloman charging Mrs. Case with murder, and the woman immediately waived examination. The court thereupon fixed her bond at \$10,000, which was furnished by W. J. Rand, of El Paso, brother of Mrs. Case, at \$10,000; by C. G. Mardorf, of Santa Fe, who offered property to the value of \$8,000, and by J. Howard Vaughn, of Santa Fe, for \$2,000. Mrs. Case is still at a local sanitarium and is rapidly recovering from the shock of the ordeal through which she passed.

There are many rumors in circulation today. Some of them are to the effect that the defense will be able to offer strong evidence of a struggle between Mrs. Case and her husband before the fatal shot was fired. It was rumored that blood had been found on Mr. Case's shoes, and on the soles of his shoes, tending to show that he had been standing up before he was killed, or at the time the fatal shot that blew out his brains was discharged.

As far as can be ascertained, the district attorney still considers the charge against Mrs. Case a serious one. It is rumored that the prosecution holds the theory that Case was killed while he was lying across the bed, with the right side of his face on the covers. That the entire charge of the shot entered the head of the dead man is said to be the theory of those that maintain that Case was lying down when he was killed, as it is said there were no shot marks on the covers of the bed.

Additional interest to the tragedy was lent by the arrival here on Tom Lea, formerly mayor of El Paso, and a well known lawyer. He has been in consultation with Attorney A. B. Renahan and it is rumored that he may be engaged with Mr. Renahan and former District Attorney A. M. Edwards to represent Mrs. Case.

Good Bill at the Cody.

Sol Carragien, manager of the Cody, Deming's theatre beautiful, promises for next week one of the best bills ever presented here. The fact that some of the acts are carrying their own special scenery and other equipment, together with very convincing advance reports have made him very sanguine as to his coming offering to local amusement lovers. The failure of two attractions to report last week upset the standard Mr. Carragien has built up at the Cody, but yesterday he was wearing the smile that won't come off. Candidly, from the line-up of acts as we read them, Cody patrons are due for a treat next week.

Lost Horse in Well.

A peculiar accident robbed Brig. Gen. F. E. Resche, commander of the 67th brigade, of his saddle horse last Friday. An orderly was exercising the animal on the open ground east of the Teal theatre when it stepped into an abandoned well that had been covered over with boards and fell to the bottom of the 4-foot shaft, 35 feet from the surface. It was some hours before the horse could be pulled out of the well, and it died almost immediately thereafter.

Here Introducing "Shi-Nu-Er."

W. J. Bieneman, president of the Bieneman manufacturing ring company of El Paso, has been personally conducting an advertising campaign in Deming this week introducing that company's wood-polish, "Shi-Nu-Er." Stocks of the product were sold to four local firms, who will be found listed in the "Shi-Nu-Er" advertisement elsewhere in this paper, and Mr. Bieneman is to return today to take up the work where he left off to return to El Paso Wednesday.

Attorney Fred Sherman left Tuesday night on a business trip to Colorado that will occupy him for a week or more.

MAJESTIC THEATRE OPENS TUESDAY WITH REDMOND CO.

Theatre Company Yesterday Closed Option on Ground on Which New Building Stands.

The Majestic, Deming's newest theatre, is being given its finishing touches this week and will present its opening attraction next Tuesday night, according to Manager Menhennet. The El Redmond Folies Co. will open the theatre with "Dazzling Dora," a comedy-drama. The Raymond company comes here from a 30-weeks engagement in Phoenix, and carries 25 people, notable among them being Ed Raymond himself and Myrtle Dingwall. Tickets for the first performance are already on sale. The Majestic Theatre Co. is the name of the new concern, the firm members being W. Menhennet, W. W. Wilcox, and C. Fred Brackett. The company yesterday exercised an option on the ground on which the theatre building stands, also on the lot adjoining it on the south, and now owns the property in its entirety. The ground was owned by Chas. Hubbard.

The Majestic will be one of Deming's handsomest buildings, both inside and out. The stage will be one of the most commodious in the city, with a 28-foot stage opening, three tiers of dressing rooms, two fly-galleries and paint bridge. The company employs its own scenery painter and will show new scenery with every show. Special equipment is provided for lighting and electrical effects, which will be one of the theatre's very strong points. The house will seat 750 people on the main floor, in addition to which there are 50 log seats.

The productions will all be handled by the Raymond company until further notice, and there will be no movies, Mr. Menhennet says.

San Antonio Holds Up the Soldiers

Mrs. F. McKinley returned Sunday from a visit with her daughter, Mrs. F. A. Rutherford, at Leon Springs, Texas. Leon Springs is near San Antonio and Mrs. McKinley had a chance while stopping over in the latter place to compare conditions with those at Deming. There are about a hundred thousand soldiers at Fort Sam Houston, much less in proportion to the population than at Deming, so that proportionately here, but living rates have advanced preposterously, and the natives are "getting theirs" while the getting is good, regardless of what patriotism might dictate. Very ordinary rooms at very ordinary hotels bring from three to seven dollars a night, and at the eating houses it is impossible to get any service at a price the ordinary person can afford. The soldiers who are to fight the battles of these pirates are regarded as legitimate prey by everyone with anything to sell, as they are, in fact, in almost every cantonment city except Deming.

New Mexicans Lead in Insurance.

New Mexico troops rank highest in percentage of government insurance. The Los Angeles Times says: "The One Hundred and Forty-Third machine gun battalion, formerly the First New Mexico infantry, stood highest with one hundred per cent, all of the 488 men and 69 officers taking out \$10,000 insurance. One officer who had not taken out a policy because he did not wish to obligate the government, being wealthy, was found after midnight this morning and he telephoned by long distance for an application."

Santa Fe Special Rates.

Cattlemen's and Stockmen's convention, Roswell, March 3-4-5. Tickets on sale same dates, fare and one-half for round trip.

New Mexico automobile show, Albuquerque, Feb. 28, March 1-2, tickets on sale same dates, fare and one-half round trip.

See Santa Fe agent.

Before Judge McKoyes.

Amelio Romero of Las Cruces, charged with white slavery, had a hearing before Judge McKoyes Monday. He was bound over to the grand jury and furnished the bond, \$750.

Jake Hirsch and family left Deming last week and moved to Douglas, Arizona. Mr. Hirsch has been one of the valued employees of the Meadows Drug Co.

Try the Graphic job printing.

Red Triangle Adds to Membership.

Dr. Frederick Perry of the American Y. M. C. A., who organized the first "Red Triangle League" chapter in America at the chamber of commerce last week, returned to Deming Wednesday for a lecture at the tabernacle that evening, at which his hearers were given an opportunity to add their names to the list of charter members of the new organization. Enough were added to bring the list up to nearly 50. The lecture was well attended.

LOCAL NEWS ITEMS.

Miss Alice Hall has a fine new Marmion chummy roadster.

G. Mark Risley is combining business with pleasure at El Paso.

M. A. Nordhaus was attending to business at El Paso yesterday.

E. C. Wells was at El Paso on business from Saturday till Tuesday.

A son was born Sunday to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Snyder, South Gold avenue.

Mrs. J. D. Henry, who has been in the hospital with lagrippe for some days past, is reported as improving.

W. A. Page's home was broken into by unknown parties during his absence in Arizona and several articles taken.

Rev. Shepherd and wife are here from South Dakota visiting with their son, Arthur, a Camp Cody "Sammy."

Messrs. Lamantia and Hallock, of the Oyster Loaf and Bee Hive cafes respectively, were at El Paso on business Wednesday.

W. S. Petty was here from Albuquerque last week on business connected with the Excelsior Laundry Company, in this city.

Mrs. W. O. Dano and son Clare, arrived Friday from Hutchinson, Kansas, joining Mr. Dano of the Graphic, who has been here for three weeks past.

Dr. P. L. Hall and wife, of Lincoln, Nebraska, visited last week with their son, Col. P. L. Hall, Jr., of the 127th field artillery, formerly the 4th Nebraska infantry.

Wm. Cobler Rudolph, Santa Ana; Felipe Garnica and Clinton DePoyster, charged with bootlegging, failed to produce \$750 bond and went to jail to await the sitting of the grand jury. All pleaded guilty.

J. J. Sullivan, representative of the American railways at Camp Cody, was notified the first of the week of his appointment to a lieutenantancy in the engineer's reserve corps, and has gone to San Francisco to join that organization.

Harvey L. Kelly, one of Deming's sailors in the naval aviation corps at San Diego, is home on a week's furlough, visiting his parents (Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Kelley). He will return to San Diego next Sunday.

Rev. M. E. Lozendy, camp pastor for the M. E. church at Camp Sheridan, Montgomery, Alabama, arrived here Tuesday for a brief visit with the family of his sister, the widow of the late W. A. McCreary, and will accompany them on their return to their old home in Alabama next week.

Humphrey Jones, publisher of the Blue Hill, Nebr., Leader, Geo. Topham and C. Zimmerman, also of that city, arrived in Deming Tuesday for a week's stay. Each has a son in the 34th division, namely, Colver Jones and Richard Topham of the 109th Supply Train, and Joseph Zimmerman of the 134th infantry.

The ladies of the Social Circle of the Christian church met on Feb. 21st at the Y. W. C. A. club house at Nickel and Pine. Twenty-five members were present and enjoyed the homelike cheer of the club. Mmes. J. M. Barracks and J. Johnson served refreshments. The circle will meet at the same place next Thursday.

Evangelist Q. A. Deck, of Lincoln, Nebraska, began a series of revival meetings at the Nazarene church last Thursday and will continue through the month of March in all probability and perhaps for some time afterward. The meetings, which are being well attended, are featured by the singing of the Evangelist's wife and sister. The services, to which the public is invited, begin at 7:30 nightly.

WANTED—20 horse power second hand engine or pump jack and rig to pump 150 gallons per minute. W. E. Holt, 221 Gold Ave.

WANTED—Stock, cattle and sheep, any number and grade. Crocker-Huffman Land & Water Company, Merced, Calif.

FOR RENT—Modern furnished room. J. F. Dodderer, 908 Platinum Ave.

VACCINATED 6,000 AGAINST SMALLPOX

Rush Orders by City Health Department Last Friday Swamped Every Doctor's Office in Deming.

ONLY FOUR CASES REPORTED.

But City Takes No Chance of Spread of Infection, and Danger is Now Definitely Averted.

The determination of the city of Deming to co-operate with the army authorities and avoid any chance of epidemic sickness here that might spread to the camp, was evidenced in a startling way last Friday in a call from the city health department for every person in the city not having a smallpox vaccination certificate less than a year old to be vaccinated at once. The notice gave only 24 hours grace to the unvaccinated, and there was a rush for the various doctors' offices that must have given those worthy gentlemen quite a fright for a moment. To help out in the rush army surgeons were brought in and given headquarters in the police station, and at this place alone over 1,200 persons were vaccinated up to Tuesday, when the rush was about over. Several hundred remain to be attended to yet, however, in the opinion of Health Officer Chapman, although a total right around the 6,000 mark were vaccinated altogether. Four thousand certificates printed at the Graphic office were exhausted Saturday and 3,000 more, distributed among the various doctors, barely took care of the demand. This fact shows pretty well that the present population of Deming is very close to if not over the 10,000 mark, for a good percentage of the people undoubtedly could show certificates dated within a year.

The appearance of four cases of smallpox in the city was the immediate occasion of the rush order by the health department. One of these cases has since been dismissed as cured and the others are under strict quarantine. The danger of their spreading is believed by Mr. Chapman to be practically negligible after the thorough precautions taken.

The same rush was on at Camp Cody, with the difference that it began earlier and was not conducted under such hurry-up conditions. No cases have appeared in the camp, so far as we can learn. In both camp and town the vaccinations seem to have been well handled, no cases of the old-time troubles that made vaccination little less to be dreaded than smallpox having been reported.

"Lost We Forget" at Princess.

At Carragien's Princess next Tuesday and Wednesday will be presented one of the most gigantic spectacles shown in Deming when "Lost We Forget," the first of four Metro features contracted by Mr. Carragien last week at a total cost of \$1,400, will be shown. This is a story of the war and deals with the sinking of the Lusitania, in the reproduction of which one of the most ambitious feats of photography is attained. A giant vessel, an exact reproduction of the Lusitania, is torpedoed and sunk, with 3,000 people on board. Rita Jolivet, the star in "Lost We Forget," was a passenger on the Lusitania when that vessel was sunk by a German submarine, and plays her role with a realism that is nothing short of that terrible experience could give. "Lost We Forget" is a play that every American should see, and having seen will thank the Princess management for the opportunity.

HONDALE ITEMS.

Miss Rebecca Coffin of Sunnyside, spent the week-end with Miss Mary Osterhout.

Several friends motored out from Deming Friday to visit Mrs. W. E. Cott.

Mmes. Mauhart and Druze motored to Deming Sunday.

B. L. McKinney was in Hondale over Sunday.

The Hondale school has been equipped with new desks and seats. Ed. H. Wilkins was out from Deming Sunday and found several valuable pieces of household furniture had been stolen during his absence.

FOR RENT—Five room house, furnished, including player piano, suitable for two families. G. T. Corcoran, 9th and Birch.